

HEALTH ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Priority Problem Justification

Ambulance Equipment and Training:

The Lake County Ambulance Service is the only type of emergency service that exists in Lake County. It has two operational ambulances, and serves a population of 7,129 residents, of which 20% are 60 years of age and up, two State Prisons, and two nursing home facilities. The nearest hospitals are located in Union City, Tennessee (an approximate one way trip of 29 miles) and Dyersburg, Tennessee (an approximate one way trip of 26 miles).

This issue was identified through the collection of primary data and information from the county populous and county leaders. The council met with the County Executive, County Medical Officer and Director of the County Ambulance Service to discuss the acquisition of needed equipment, namely two defibrillators, plus advanced training for the employees. During this meeting it became evident that budget constraints prohibited the county from purchasing the defibrillators as well as the additional training required by state mandates. The council and county leaders realized that without the new equipment and training the unnecessary loss of life could become a reality.

Youth Health Issues:

As the preceding list revealed four of the top health concerns focused on youth health issues in Lake County. Rather than addressing each of these issues individually, the council chose to group these issues into one category identified as Youth Health and Well-being Issues. The following issues were included: Teen Pregnancy; Teen Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Abuse; Child Abuse; and a Before/After School Program.

Teen Pregnancy:

In the Next 24 hours: 2,795 teenage girls will become pregnant.

In a Community Health Status survey conducted by the council, 60 percent of the respondents described teen pregnancy as a problem in Lake County. The following table shows that the number of pregnancies has fluctuated, yet no notable reduction has occurred.

**Lake County Adolescent
Pregnancies by Number and Rate**
Per 1,000 females aged 10-17 by Race

Race/ Year	1996 # Rate	1995 # Rate	1994 # Rate	1993 # Rate	1992 # Rate	1991 # Rate	1990 # Rate
All	8 21.7	11 34.3	16 48.5	15 44.0	12 34.3	12 33.3	10 27.0
White	5 18.7	5 21.3	7 29.5	12 49.4	10 40.0	7 27.3	7 26.7
Non- White	3 29.7	6 0	9 0	3 0	2 20.0	5 48.1	3 27.8